

Waste Prevention

Waste prevention helps conserve resources and reduce pollution. Wastes can be prevented by reducing or even eliminating the amount or toxicity of materials that end up in the waste stream.

Waste prevention is not difficult!

Simple steps everybody can take include:

- Pick durable and easy-to-repair products.
- Avoid disposable, single-use products.
- Choose electronics that are easy to upgrade.
- Reuse old products or pass them on to friends, thrift shops, or the FreeCycle Center.
- Conduct routine maintenance to extend product lifetime.
- Look in thrift shops or the FreeCycle Center for new products.
- Go paperless with e-mail, online newsletters, e-books, and other options.
- Use re-usable shopping bags.
- Buy items in bulk with reduced packaging.

Be creative!

There are many other things you can do!



More Information

Additional information on environmentally friendly purchasing and waste prevention can be found online at:

- Green Patriot – Green 100 Companies:
<http://green-patriot.com/green100.html>
- Reduce.org – Reduce Waste:
<http://www.reduce.org/index.html>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Preferable Purchasing:
<http://www.epa.gov/epp/index.htm>

For more information contact the DPW Environmental Division of USAG Schweinfurt at:

DSN 354-6795 / CIV 09721-96-6795

or

usarmy.schweinfurt.usareur.list.dpw-environmental@mail.mil

Or visit our Web site:

<http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environmental/environmental.htm>



**USAG
Schweinfurt
Directorate of
Public Works**



**Environmentally
Friendly
Purchasing
&
Waste Prevention**



Environmentally Friendly Purchasing

Any product we buy has an impact on the environment. The impact can result from its raw material, production, packaging, transport, use and operation, and/or disposal.

Some products have less impact on the environment and human health than competing ones. Purchasing more environmentally friendly products is an easy way to help protect our health, environment, and natural resources.

Features that make products more environmentally friendly include the following:

- Contains less toxic materials/components
- Higher energy and water efficiency
- Made from recycled content (preferably postconsumer recycled content)
- Contains remanufactured, re-fined, or otherwise recovered components
- Organically produced
- Locally grown or produced
- Less packaging material
- Higher durability and better reparability

Shopping Guide

Product Packaging:

- Less material
- Made from recycled content
- Recyclable

Cleaning Supplies:

- Natural ingredients
- No skin irritants, unnecessary dyes, and added fragrances
- Reusable cleaning cloths



Laundry and Dish Detergents:

- Natural ingredients
- Phosphate free to protect streams and lakes



Paper and Paper-Based Products:

- Made from postconsumer recycled content
- Manufactured chlorine-free
- Recyclable or biodegradable



Light Bulbs:

- Energy efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFL) or light emitting diode (LED) lights



Shopping Guide

Electronics/Appliances:

- Reduced or no toxic components
- Made from recycled content and with material efficient design
- Energy and water efficient
- Upgradable
- Lead-free display
- Refillable printer cartridges
- Options for product take-back
- Recyclable



Food Products:

- Certified organically produced
- Locally grown
- Sustainable production



Beverages:

- Refillable bottles for on-the-go
- Faucet filters for drinking water at home
- Big containers preferred

Cosmetics:

- Natural ingredients

And, of course, remember to use re-usable shopping bags!!!